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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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How Optical-Fibre Cables laid without a proper plan by internet service providers are waylaying ordinary Bengalureans on the move, jeopardising public safety

TUG OF WIRE

3 people fell due to protruding cables

Melvin Mathew
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After potholes and dug-up roads, the new menace in Bengaluru is the haphazardly laid OFC cables. According to residents, Optical-Fibre Cables (OFCs) are being laid without a proper plan and concern for public safety.

Passengers frequenting the Ramagondanahalli bus stop near Whitefield had to negotiate OFC cables before boarding buses.

The recently laid OFC cables were protruding from a manhole adjacent to the bus stop. It was laid across the width of the bus stop. Residents noted that this was a perfect trap for Bengalureans to trip and fall victim to accidents.

"As I stepped out onto the Varthur Main Road, I noticed that a recently installed OFC cable near Ramagondanahalli bus stop had been pulled higher than the bus stop's height and had been brought onto the road. It was jutting out of the bus stop footpath area and as well as the road. The cable was coming out of the manhole and the manhole cover was misaligned with the road surface. This is the exact spot where the buses stop," said Anjali Saini, a member of Whitefield Rising.

Residents noted this is a bus stop with heavy footfall and that the road goes past Kodi circle to Whitefield Main Road.

Saini added that everyone including women wearing sarees were jumping over the cable and people were somehow managing to reach the bus stop despite the obstruction.

"Around three people have already fallen due to the protruding cables. At night, these cables are not visible. People getting on and off the buses and walking across the footpath, tend to not notice the cables. This was a cause for concern with the possibility of buses running over the tripping

"Cable was out of the manhole and the manhole cover misaligned with the road surface. This is the exact spot where buses stop... – Anjali Saini, Whitefield Rising

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Old to Joy

Survey shows elderly more conscious of diet and exercise than young

Iffath.Fathima
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

You would have thought that words like diet, nutrition, and fitness are found in the dictionary of the youth, but hang on, our seniors are not the ones to be left behind. A recent survey shows that diet and fitness figure high in the priority list of the elderly, even more than that of the millennials and Gen Z group.

The Positive Ageing Report 2021 released by the Columbia Pacific Communities, a senior living community operator, shows the elderly have outdone the youth in pursuing a conscious diet and fitness regime. Over 2,000 respondents older than 18 years from Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune participated in the survey that was done face-to-face and via telephonic interactions. The respondents between 18 and 35 years are referred to as Gen Z and millennials, and those between 36 and 45 years as Gen X in the report.

Senior citizens were found to be most focused on health and fitness. With regards to their dietary intake, 71% of respondents older than 60 years said they were careful about their diet, compared to only 58% for millennials and Gen Z.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Palike winning the rabies fight

Garima Prasher
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Dog lovers in the city have a reason to cheer. The animal husbandry division of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) says that the number of rabies-related calls have gone down by 50 per cent in the last few months.

"When we started the helpline in 2020, we used to get around 30 calls for suspected rabies cases, but since last year, the number of such calls has gone down dramatically. On average, we now get around 12 to 14 calls," says Dr Manjunath Shinde, joint director (animal husbandry), BBMP.

Officials say this is due to the aggressive rabies vaccination drive carried out by Palike last year. Under the drive, Shinde adds that officials vaccinated over one lakh dogs within the city limits and covered almost 50-55 per cent of the stray dog population.

The dedicated helpline for rabies was started by BBMP in 2020 under its holistic Rabies Prevention and Control Programme.

"The helpline was to empower citizens to reach out and report suspected cases. If a dog is showing symptoms or biting people, citizens could report such cases with pictures or videos. Based on the information provided by the reporter, we assess if it is a rabies case. The ground team then pick up the dog to keep them under 10 days' observation. The sample is collected and sent to the veterinary college in Hebbal," says an BBMP official.

While the number of calls to report suspected rabies cases has plunged, the number of overall calls has gone up.

"Earlier, on an average, we used to receive about 100 calls every month. Now the number of calls has gone up to around 200. However, an increase in calls does not mean that rabies cases have increased. We also get calls or requests for vaccinations and animal relocation," informed the official.

ABC/ARV to be upgraded

Palike is in the process of floating fresh tenders for its Animal Birth Control (ABC) and Anti Rabies Vaccination (ARV) programs. According to BBMP officials, the new agencies brought in will carry out the ABC program in a similar manner.

"We will finalise new service providers for all the eight zones within two months. This time, we are planning to deploy the ward intensive method for both programs. The agencies selected will target one ward at a time for ABC/ARV. We will be aiming to cover at least 90 per cent of the unneutered dogs in the ward before moving on to the next ward," says Dr Shinde. Similarly, at least 70 per cent of the dogs will get vaccinated in each ward.

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4 THINGS TO DO

01 Summer camp

Empowered Minds Edu Solutions is organising a live virtual summer camp programme. The camp will include cooking without fire, theatre and drama, science and experiments, yoga and exercise, art and craft, dance & creative writing.
Where: Online
When: till April 6,10:30am to 12:00 pm
Register: empoweredminds.co.in/ 8431711722

02 World Theatre Day

This Sunday, on World Theatre Day, join Ranga Shankara to spend a day celebrating the resilient spirit of our theatre community. At 'Encounters: Inspiring Stories from Theatre', several theatre folks from Karnataka and Maharashtra will share the work they have created and engaged with during the last two years. In the evening, several artists will go on a journey into finding one's voice through stages of discoveries and self-affirmation in 'Pressing Pause', a series of movement solos. The team of Ranga Mantapa will perform old and popular theatre songs such as those by BV Karanth, C Ashwat, Yoganarasimha and many more.
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: Mar 27, 12:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Entry: Free, 080 2649 3982

03 Optikal Asylum

Koramangala SOCIAL is all set to host OPTIKAL ASYLUM, an art & music showcase that has completed over 35 editions, providing a platform for over 500+ artists across the country. The property returns to Bengaluru for a special Kranti Art Theory Anniversary Edition, featuring hardcore junglists Denham Audio B2B Mani Festo (UK) + live art and an art auction. With the aim to make art more accessible to the urban young audience, OPTIKAL ASYLUM features artists exhibiting their works which include some of the finest young talent coming out of the Indian subcontinent. **Where: Koramangala SOCIAL**
When: March 26, 3 PM onwards
Entry: Rs 300, insider.in

04 Road safety 101

Forum Koramangala Mall in association with Being Social - Ek Nayi Shuruaat is organising a special road safety programme for citizens. The volunteers will be dressed as Lord Ganesha, Yamraj, Chitragupta, along with traffic cops, traffic signals and in various other roles to spread awareness on road safety. This road safety pledge will conclude with a flash mob.
Where: Forum Mall, Koramangala
When: March 26, 4.30 PM

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Making leadership great

This programme, labour of two NGOs, may help councillors across cities, including namma Bengaluru, tackle impending issues better

Garima Prasher
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship & Democracy, Bengaluru, in association with Dasra, a Delhi-based NGO, has come up with a training programme for councillors of city municipal corporations' to help them tackle challenges faced by cities. The Councillor Leadership Program has been devised after the NGOs conducted a nationwide study on councillors and found majority of them do not have clarity on their roles.

According to the report titled 'City Leaders – A Systematic Program to Empower Elected Leaders' 68 per cent of councillors said their roles are not clearly defined and 43 per cent felt the information available to them is inadequate to make their case to authorities. Of the sum of councillors, 46 per cent are women. Most of them said they faced challenges stemming from lack of support from family and society.

"The findings of the report outline the need for capacity building, the opportunity to build systematic leadership for councillors, and laying the foundation for a leadership development program with a gender lens. We aim at assisting the councillors and educating them on their roles, responsibilities so that they can bring about the much-needed change," said Srinivas Alavilli, head, civic participation, Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship & Democracy, Bengaluru.

The programme is yet to be inducted in Bengaluru. Above: A training session in Coimbatore

> **"We aim at assisting councillors and educating them on their roles and responsibilities to bring about a much-needed change** –Srinivas Alavilli, Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship & Democracy

At the first mile, the counsillors act as a bridge between the citizens and the government. Water supply, public transport, housing, safety, health and sanitation are some major issues which they are responsible for addressing. However, as per the report, they experience challenges in understanding the processes and mechanisms laid out for them.

"There are many organisations across the country working on urban reforms, yet no one is looking at the most important stakeholder, that is counsillors. No change can be brought about if the citizens' representatives are not empowered and not in sync with what needs to be done. Winning an election is not the same as governing afterward," said Alavilli.

The programme, having been conducted in a few cities already, kicks off with an induction session, which is held immediately after the councillors get elected.

"Post the induction session, we plan to conduct regular sessions within three to six months based on requirements and we will train them in hard and soft skills. For instance, they will get to know how to use data and technology to make an effective case for their wards. The engagement will continue throughout their tenure. We are partnering with the capacity-building organisations of the state governments to conduct these training sessions," said Alavilli.

Looking through trash, striking gold

BBMP marshalls don't mind getting their hands dirty when it comes to catching litterbugs in Mahadevapura

Melvin Mathew
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

BBMP marshalls have been asked to monitor the 75-km stretch looked after under the Clean Street Challenge organised by the Mahadevapura Task Force - Mobility. They're tracking culprits dumping garbage on the roadside in Mahadevapura constituency by examining the contents of their trash.

The marshalls patroll at night to catch those dumping waste in the area in inappropriate spots, give feedback to the task force regarding its initiative of scheduling garbage collection at night and conduct awareness drives. They follow auto-tippers and create awareness through various announcements about the new system of collection at night time. They also instruct people against dumping waste on the road.

Despite these efforts some continue to dump waste on the roadside. So, the marshalls intensified their patrolling.

"Marshall conduct tandem inspections by opening garbage bags and going through the contents. Every bag has some sort of an identity marker that can be used to trace the culprit," said Clement Jayakumar, secretary, Mahadevapura Task Force - Mobility.

A virtual spot checking meet

In an instance, the marshalls used a disposed electricity bil to track and fine the culprit. Residents are also helping.

"We received a video from a resident recording someone dumping construction waste. The video revealed an identity marker and the location of the shop responsible for the dumping. Within two hours, the team was able to trace the culprits and impose a fine," said Jayakumar.

The task force has created a dedicated email address to receive such inputs from residents.

"A Whatsapp group with the SWM department, health inspectors, BBMP marshalls, road infrastructure engineers and The Ugly Indian volunteers is the key enabler. We are able to send marshals and impose fines under 90 minutes of a garbage dumping incident," said Clement. Currently,

Around 80 resident volunteers are helping the task force crack down on the litterbugs.

"This is a pilot project. Depending on its success, we will expand into other wards based on the availability of resources," said BBMP Mahadevapura Joint Commissioner Venkatachalapathy M.

Virtually perfect spot checks

Spot checking is crucial to be keep progress assessments of projects as authentic as possible. The task force is looking at conducting spot checks in the constituency virtually as a Covid-preventive measure. "A spot checking meeting with joint commissioner Venkatachalapthy was scheduled at 11.30 am on Sarjapura Road. We sent a team with a camera at 6 am to take a video of the 10 km stretch in question. We received an 11-minute video post editing," added Jayakumar.

"Works were assigned to the authorities concerned. The spot checking was completed within 30 minutes instead of four hours," said Jayakumar.

"We have been conducting these meetings every Friday," said Venkatachalapathy.

"Using this method, problem areas missing from our purview are being highlighted by residents. We intend to make the roads more public-friendly," said AEE Mumta.

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Nuisance
Fraser Town

"A fellow resident has made life miserable on D Street Cross near Haines road. Day and night the noise from repair works of vehicles keeps us up. The whole lane is encroached due to the repair works, house plants and domestic animals..." a reader wrote to BM.

Stuck up
Infantry Road

The footpath is encroached by an influential resident with pots of plants and a traffic barricade at the entrance of Union Street, a reader told BM.

A hole issue
Siddaiah Road

This pavement is in a terrible condition. Folks have tripped and fallen here. Mosquitoes too plague the locals. BBMP must repair it.

Real estate better than going for gold?

Real returns from both asset classes are similar, but real estate comes with added advantage of security, long-term wealth creation

Annabel.Dsouza
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Buying something of value on a festive occasion comes naturally to Indians, and gold has long been the first choice for festive shoppers. However, many investment-savvy Indians today are questioning traditional practices and opting for assets that are better aligned with their current budget and long-term wealth creation goals.

Consider corporate professional Aakriti K who bought her dream home—a spacious 1.5BHK in a gated community in a peripheral suburb — during the festival period in Q4 2021. "Since gold is such an integral part of our culture, I was drawn to it. I thus, would invest in gold jewellery whenever possible. Over the years, I had 10 lakh worth of gold assets in the form of jewellery. However, when I was falling short of money to make the down payment for my dream home, my parents advised me to sell a part of this asset to raise the capital. Since I was liquidating to invest in a long-term asset, it felt right. Thus, from experience I can state that gold came to the rescue when I needed it, making both, real estate and gold an important part of your portfolio," she says.

Inflation-adjusted

While real returns on both gold and property have lagged behind the current inflation rate of six per cent, asset management experts are of the opinion that property offers more liquidity in terms of rental returns in addition to capital value appreciation, whereas gold only offers the latter. Hence, for thousands of home-owners, especially first-time investors, liquidating their gold investments is a stepping stone towards down payment of their dream home.

Personal finance consultant Mihir Parekh elaborates, "This has been the conventional practice among Indian families for years. However, at current growth rate of about 5.7 per cent, investors are unable to yield inflation compatible rates from gold ornaments due to smelting loss. It is more advisable to secure your investments in a well-performing mutual fund if home-ownership is your ultimate goal. Additionally, gold-secured loans are also preferable over high-interest personal loans if you are trying to meet a last-minute financial crunch when buying property."

For those who want to take the equity route, Parekh advises, "While they don't score high on the auspiciousness quotient, gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) are also advisable for those who wish to benefit from real returns on gold as a commodity. Unlike physical gold like ornaments and coins, ETFs don't need to be stored in bank lockers because of the threat of theft. However, unlike property investments through a home loan, there are no tax benefits to gold purchase. In fact, ornaments attract GST in addition to making charges."

Sentimental value

With home loan interest rates at an all-time low and many benefits for first-time homebuyers such as preferential stamp duty and PMAY, the total cost of home acquisition has reduced dramatically over the last few years.

Madurai based chartered accountant Kaveri Krishnan says, "Today, gold purchase during festivals is more for symbolic value rather than real returns. Considering lowest-best home loan interest rates, pandemic-driven price corrections in the property market and many other government sops for homebuyers, real estate has the potential to outperform gold and deliver inflation-corrected returns over the next few years. Many argue that the cost of property maintenance and taxes diminish the wealth gains over the long-term. But such costs must be viewed as investments that only aid in further appreciating the asset. Plus, real estate investments can be leveraged with affordable bank loans. Hence, one can buy assets worth three times the equity available for such case."

For those who are not yet ready to take the property plunge, Krishnan says, "A healthy investment portfolio must contain a mix of debt assets like bank fixed deposits, gold, equity, and real estate. The percentage allocation and further diversification within each asset class depends on each investor's individual risk appetite and financial goals. Hence, one can take baby steps towards their big-ticket property investment through disciplined investing in growth-oriented mutual funds over a 5–7-year period."

Source - Times Property

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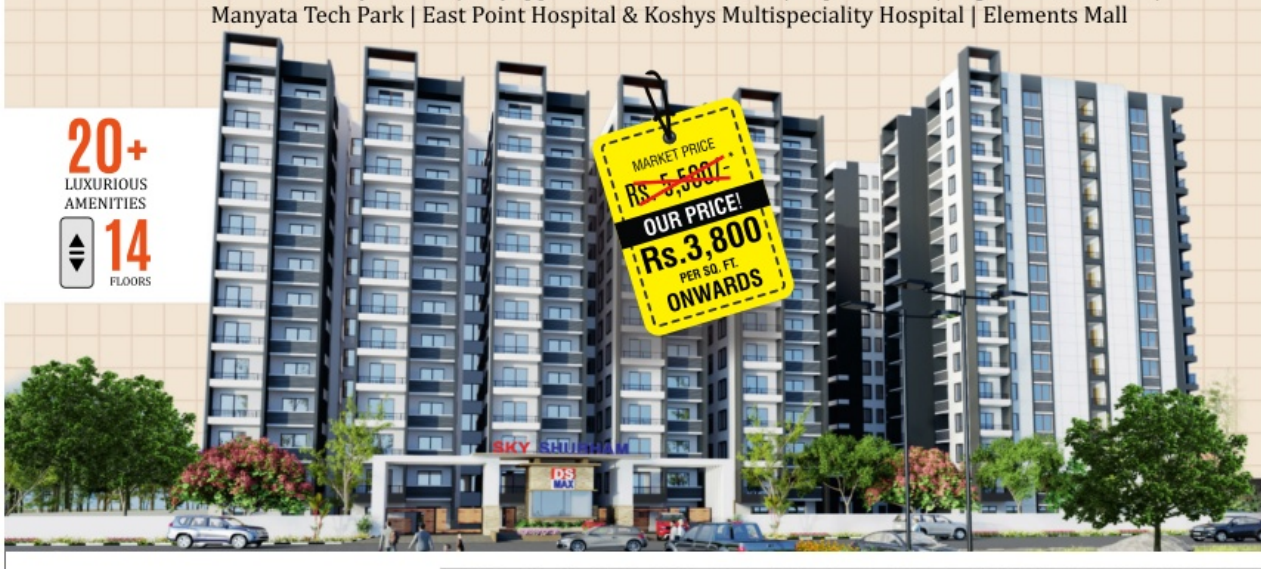

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PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

For a great ROAD TRIP

Road trip enthusiasts are now all set to hit the road after the lockdown. But before starting the journey, it is important to do a series of checks

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesgroup.com

In India, the concept of road trips is still evolving due to poor highways, lack of open roads and traffic. However, certain places which cannot be reached directly by air or trains are accessed by road. A road trip requires extensive preparation and to begin with, you have to do a series of service checks for your car before starting the journey. Before setting out for such far-flung destinations by road, travellers have to give their vehicle a thorough inspection. By carrying out essential service checks - be it brakes, steering or oil - they must ensure that their car is ready to hit the road. Moreover, documents such as registration certificates, pollution under control (PUC) certificate, and insurance policy are a must while you drive your own vehicle. The lack of such checks can cause unnecessary hurdles during the trip and spoil the overall experience.

GET THE BASICS RIGHT

Before planning the much-awaited road trip, make sure to take your vehicle to an authorised service centre and get a general check-up done where leakages and damages, if any, could be repaired. Special attention should be paid to hoses, pipes and cables, especially the clutch and the accelerator. Fuel lines should be paid extra attention. Ensure all fluid levels are as recommended by the manufacturer. This not only ensures the brakes are looked at and any defect is attended to, but also ensures that all lights are checked and are in satisfactory working condition as it may compromise the visibility of the driver while driving at night.

Another very important thing is to get the wiper blades cleaned and checked especially if you are travelling around the monsoon season. Also, check the vehicle horn for satisfactory operation. Make sure you give the vehicle for a check-up well in advance before you plan to travel and not wait for the last moment.

DO A TOOL CHECK

Before planning a long-distance road trip, it is a must to do a thorough tool check in order to ensure the safety of yourself and others travelling with you. Always make sure that the vehicle body jack is available and is in a proper working condition and has not been rusted as it would be difficult to operate then. The wheel spanner should be in its place and secured like the jack and handle.

Do not forget to carry a set of open-end spanners, reversible screwdriver, a pair of pliers and a torch. Also carry a set of drive belts, hose pipes, electrical wire piece, insulation tape, extra fuses, and coolant for spare. A first-aid kit also comes handy in case of an emergency. If the tools and spares are available it becomes easier for a roadside mechanic to help you repair your vehicle. There are highway users club also available in case you need professional help with fixing your vehicle.

BABY ON BOARD

Our number one priority during a road trip especially with a baby is to make sure that we arrive at our destination safely. In order to do this, one must make sure that their vehicle is up-to-date on any scheduled maintenance and repair work. It is always a good idea to keep an emergency kit in the car filled with bandages, medicines, a flashlight, and other useful items. One must be extra careful while driving with children, so do away with distractions such as your phone or the map - the person in the passenger seat can take care of those things for you. Most importantly, be a defensive driver while traveling with kids - look both ways before turning, do not try to run stoplights, keep a safe distance from other vehicles and make sure to use indicators before turning.

DOCUMENTS DOS AND DON'TS

The basic documents that you will require for a hassle-free journey include your driver's license, registration (RC), pollution control certificate, and your latest certificate of insurance. However, if you rent a car, all you need is your license as most rental companies offer comprehensive insurance plans to protect their patrons.

Having said that, a road trip can be made both fun and safe for you as well as your near and dear ones if you follow the right steps.

Behind the wheel

Owning a car is no longer a luxury but a necessity these days and here are a few things that people want in their first car

Respedit.Bangalore
@timesgroup.com

Buying your first car is a memorable event and people nowadays have different expectations from their vehicles and look for specific features that make their dream cars special. "There is a steady increase in the number of first-time car buyers now due to the pandemic. Many youngsters who were using two-wheelers are turning to cars. The comfort of driving, safety aspects, and ease of maintenance of the vehicle are key considerations while deciding on a car," says Sushmita Biswas, CEO, of an automobile showroom.

CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY

Cars today, even the regular ones come with a host of new features and amenities that set them apart from those even a few years back. For example, airbags are now almost universal in all passenger vehicles while power steering and braking are also much more common than before. The youth's preferences have changed too. They want their cars to be low maintenance, environment friendly and have more gadgets for convenience and entertainment. And car manufacturers are providing for such requirements as well. Superior features such as parking cameras, Bluetooth connectivity and high-quality speakers dominate many conversations regarding interior gadgets for cars today.

POPULAR DEMANDS

Lawyer Naman Jain, 27, shares what he is looking for in his first car. "I would like it to be eco-friendly," he says while also focusing on safety. "I also want airbags on all seats as well as a reverse camera and parking sensors," Jain shares, adding, "The car's maintenance should also be less. And keyless entry to it will be great as well." Shivam Tomar, 26, a software developer, has similar needs from her first four-wheeler. She explains, "I'm looking for good mileage, less maintenance cost, and a reverse camera in a car." Then she adds, "It has to be environmentally friendly too."

LIST OF CONSIDERATIONS

"It all depends on what I will use the car for," says Sakshi Sharma, 25, an associate advocate, She has a set of things she will consider before buying her car. Sharma lists further, "It will depend on whether I need it for my family and/or whether it will be a sedan or a hatchback. Secondly, I will look at my price range and whether I must go for an Indian brand or any other German or Japanese ones." She factors in fuel consumption too. "I will have to consider whether I go for a car in diesel or petrol variants. I will never prefer CNG. With this, I would want to know the fuel efficiency too," she states, adding, "I'll have to also think about whether it has to be automatic or manual, which one would be convenient and beneficial since I'll be a fresher." Warranties for automobile parts are also important, she says. "It is important to do a test drive before finalising as it is the best way to choose the right car for you. Shortlist the options that suit your budget and go for a test drive. Now almost all car companies arrange test drives at your doorstep. Drive and decide," suggests Faisal S, an auto expert.

The consumer drives the change in the market. And smart young professionals today know precisely what they want in their set of fresh wheels. They will weigh the pros and cons thoroughly before buying their first car, and so should you.

PHOTO: ISTOCK

MARUTI SUZUKI

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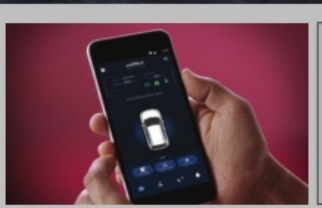
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It's playtime!

Channapatna toys being sold on a pushcart at Bengaluru city railway station. Channapatna, popular as the Town of Toys, is mostly populated by traditional toy makers of Karnataka. Toy makers of Channapatna, located over 60 km from Bengaluru, come to the city and travel to different parts of the State and the country to sell their products at prime locations and fairs.

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Mysuru man impersonates dead brother for decades

A man was arrested for allegedly impersonating his dead brother to work as a government school co-teacher in Mysuru district. Though the accused rendered services for 25 years as a teacher, the education department had got no clue about it surprisingly.

The arrested has been identified as Lakshmane Gowda. The accused had impersonated his brother Lokesh Gowda, who managed to get the government job but died before joining service. Claiming himself to be Lokesh Gowda, the accused joined the government service as the co-teacher of the Government Higher Primary School of Kattemalalawadi village near Hunsur town. He rendered service at various schools across the district till date.

In 2019, a local journalist, who got a clue about it, had lodged a complaint with the Education department, police said. After this, an investigation was conducted and the accused was arrested. During the course of investigation, the accused's family did not give information. The District Commissioner had directed to lodge a complaint with the police department.

After finding the name of the accused suspiciously from the family tree, the authorities have initiated action and arrested him. Piriyapattana police are investigating the case. **IANS**

Breast milk donation campaign gains momentum

The campaign for breast milk donation has gained momentum in Karnataka as for the first time in the country a walkathon has been organised to spread the word with Radhika Pandit, an actress and wife of rock star Yash, pitching in for the cause. The government has appealed to mothers to donate breast milk to save the lives of infants. The walkathon has been organised on March 27 to spread the word on donation of mother's milk to save the lives of infants.

Health Minister K. Sudhakar inaugurated the 'Amruthdhare Human Milk Bank' and appealed that mothers should come forward for breast milk donation, which will save the lives of infants. "In many cases, children don't get breast milk because of the death of their mother or other reasons. To cater to those kids, breast milk banks have been opened at four district headquarters including Mysuru, Belagavi and Bengaluru," he stated. **IANS**

Manhole wire trap

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pedestrians. Buses also might not notice the cables," she added.

However, the residents did find a solution and eventually had the BBMP cut the cables.

Saini informed the ward engineer about the scenario and was pointed to the division concerned. Insisting on finding a solution immediately, Saini asked the BBMP officials to come and cut the cables instead.

"This was not a situation that could be stalled. Every moment there was a possibility of somebody tripping and injuring themselves. We put a lot of pressure through the ward committee; a video of the bus stop showing cables obstructing the pathway was sent to the officials," she added.

Soon a junior engineer came to the spot and cut the cables. The remaining cables 'were disposed of behind the bus stop' and the misaligned manhole was corrected.

According to the residents, as the BBMP cut the cable, at night, the internet service provider's (ISP) crew arrived and were seen fixing the cable in a similar way. The residents rushed to the spot again, stopped the operators from the ongoing repair and demanded to show their permission to operate on a major road.

The ISP, however, insisted on repairing the cable fiasco instantly stating that the internet has been halted for its users. It should be noted that owing to covid-19 and working from home, people have become hugely dependent on the internet; even minor fluctuations cause disruption to work routines.

"Owing to our resistance, OFC operators were forced to fix the area properly. The cables would be put through a duct and the manhole will be levelled. Now, the area is at least 95 percent safe," added Saini.

Residents complain that the issue persists with all ISPs and the shoddy work is spread all across the neighbourhood inconveniencing pedestrians and commuters alike. They added that even the traffic police have been turning a blind eye to their plight.

Diet, fitness high priority for elderly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the category of exercise and fitness that is said to be the passions of the youngsters, the findings showed that 79% of the elderly were into these concepts and only 69% of millennials and Gen Z considered daily exercise important.

In Bengaluru, a comparison between the attitudes of millennials and Gen Z, shows that senior citizens were much more diligent about monitoring their diets while millenials and Gen Z are marginally more proactive about exercise. Over 70% of respondents older than 60 years were careful about their diet, compared to only 52% millennials and Gen Z members. As much as 79% of millennials and Gen Z considered daily exercise important, and the elderly were not far behind as 73% also considered daily exercising important for a healthy life.

However, in terms of gender, it is the males who are more concerned about their diet and nutrition than the women. It was estimated that 82% of elderly men and 71% of women consider daily exercise important, while 28% men and only 22% women over 60 are 'extremely careful' about their nutrition. This could be an outcome of women continuing to shoulder greater responsibility for homes, which would leave them with less time for monitoring diet or investing in physical exercise.

Mohit Nirula, Chief Executive Officer, Columbia Pacific Communities, said, "The Positive Aging Report breaks several myths around the elderly. The findings indicate that senior citizens value health, nutrition, and exercise more than the younger generations. They look forward to positive aging and aspire to remain healthy and fit, while living their lives to the fullest.

It is their aspiration to begin new careers, pursue old hobbies, engage in philanthropic or social welfare activities, which keeps them going. This could be a reason for their conscious and consistent focus on health and fitness, as their urge to keep working and remaining consistent is the strongest past the age of 60."

Q&A before II PU exams to clear doubts

Here's what experts advised students, parents for Board exams during VK's phone-in programme

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For many, II PU examinations are the important milestones in their student life. The exams determine the course of their higher education. So, students are generally anxious and tense. To allay their fears and clarify misconceptions, Vijay Karnataka (VK) — sister publication of Bangalore Mirror — organised a phone-in programme. Top PU officials along with subject experts were invited to join a panel and answer phone calls of students and parents. Here are some excerpts from the programme held at the VK office on Friday.

The phone-in programme organised at Vijay Karnataka

II PU exam centres-1,076

Students appearing for II PU exam

Freshers	6,00,724
Arts	1.81 lakh
Commerce	2.18 lakh
Science	2 lakh

How parents can help

- Positively motivate the kids: Although well-timed motivation and encouragement to perform well in the exam is beneficial, pressuring the youngster to study "more" or "better" is counter-productive
- Avoid additional mental strain: Pressuring kids to achieve exceptional grades all the time may cause emotional pain
- Give your children ample attention: Children, in many circumstances, do not communicate their worries to others and keep them to themselves

Stay away from social gathering, gizmos

Pradeep Eshwar, head, Parishrama NEET Academy, said, "I want to appreciate the PU department for doing a commendable job. In fact, the question papers set by the PU department turns out to be a role model for the other state boards. I want to convey that students should not be anxious or tense. Instead, utilise the time to study more and more. Stay away from social gathering and mobile phones. Assuming 15 hours of studying, you will still have 450 hours to study for your papers. Finally, have trust in your teachers and PU department."

Clash of dates

Many students and parents called to check if there will be any further changes to the II PUC time table. GM Ganachari, assistant director, PU department, said as of now, there was no change in the time table. "Don't heed to rumours, follow our timetable and study well for the exams," PU officials added.

A student called to say he had Mathematics on April 23 and Chemistry on 26 for which he will be writing the exam in Hubballi. However, he had chosen to write JEE at Bengaluru on April 24 and 25. "How can I travel to a different city to write the exam and return to write the II PU exam?" he asked. An official responded, "We had to change the exam time table first to accommodate JEE. However, the JEE time table was changed again. Now, with many parents raising the issue, we will bring this to the notice of the higher officials for taking a call."

"I appreciate the PU department for doing a commendable job. In fact, the question papers set by the PU department turns out to be a role model for the other state boards. I want to convey that students should not be anxious or tense. e

– Pradeep Eshwar, Founder of Parishrama Neet Academy

Some crucial tips that can help crack NEET

One of the callers said, "My daughter is studying at II PU. She had secured 95 pc of marks in SSLC. She is currently undergoing training for NEET as well. I want to understand if my daughter will be able to crack NEET?"

Pradeepekeshwar replied, "I want to urge the State Government to conduct CET before NEET. Last year, many students skipped CET for NEET and ended up losing their engineering students. As far as cracking the NEET is considered, I would suggest that a student has to study at least 15 to 16 hours a day to crack the NEET."

Blueprint

A caller wanted to know if the final exam papers will be similar to the model question paper pattern released by the department. Officials said the pattern will be similar and the model question paper is for students to understand the paper pattern. Another caller wanted to know when the results would be announced as he needs them to apply in colleges for higher studies in the second week of June. PU officials said it was too early to announce the date, however, the department works as per schedule and will ensure the results are declared at the earliest. Another caller wanted to know the strategy for scoring good marks in Economics. An Economics expert said, "There are two parts; micro and macro. You need to concentrate on important chapters. You need to cover all the chapters to score good marks. The blueprint has already been given which can be followed."

How to clear essay-writing with flying colours

A student called to ask how to write a Kannada essay to score full marks. The subject expert said, "The essay type questions will carry five marks. The answers need to be divided into three phases; introduction, analysis and conclusion. I would recommend starting with a sub-headline for each of these. The evaluator wants to understand how well you have understood the subject and this will be the case of scoring good marks. I would recommend writing three to four essays as preparation at home which will be helpful to write essays in exams as well."

Students must be aware of choices available to them

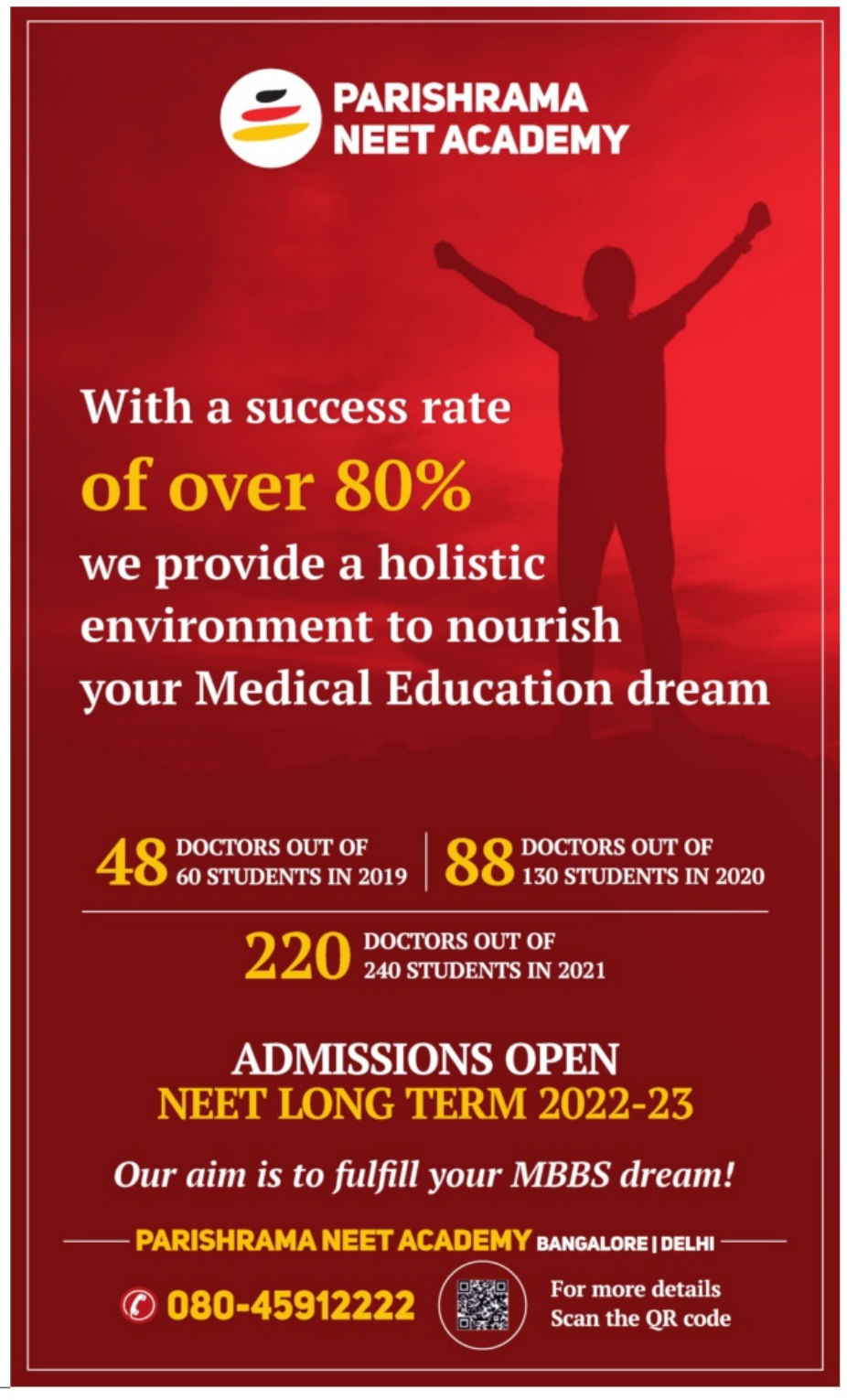
A caller wanted to know if he would get an admission ticket to write exams as he had not attended college due to Covid.

PU officials said the student should visit the college and discuss this with the principal. A parent wanted to know if the paper could be 'easier' as students had not attended offline classes in a while. The subject expert said the papers were set with many choices in questions for students to help students. "I recommend you to go through the blueprint so you will get a fair idea of the weightage for each chapter," the expert said.

The following subject experts were present during the programme: Anant Kumar (Mathematics), Ere Gowda (Chemistry), Gayatri (Physics), Sumitra (Kannada), Sadanand (English), Devaraj (Biology), Mahabaleshwar (Commerce), Veera Raju (Economics), Prabhakar (Political Science), Gopal (History) and Purushottam (Sociology).

Preparation Tips

- Don't copy someone else's study chart
- Allocate 40 mins per subject and you can utilise 6 hrs a day for six subjects
- It is better to write and practise
- Revision every weekend for the week
- Prepare a timetable for the day's study
- Revise day's work before going to bed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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

PEEK-A-BOO!

At Karnataka Golf Course, I spotted these birds playing hide-and-seek from the trees. Such a cheerful sight!

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Tanvir**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

One of Bengaluru's oldest and most iconic man-made lakes, Sankey Tank is a sight for sore eyes. Spread over 15 hectares, it extends to portions of Malleshwaram, Vyalikaval, and Sadashiva Nagar. Sankey tank was constructed by Col Richard Hieram Sankey of the Madras Sappers Regiment, in 1882, to meet the water supply demands of Bangalore. The tank was also known as Gandhadhakotikere, as the Government Sandalwood Depot used to be located near the lake. Sankey tank received water from a massive catchment area extending over 1,600 acres, which was systematically greened by the planting of large numbers of trees. Despite the effort and expense, the tank was not able to sufficiently replenish the water in Miller's tank and Dharmambudhi tank. Some derisively called it "Sankey's Folly". Today, it attracts fitness buffs, photographers, and those who simply want a breather.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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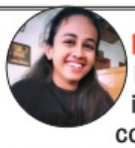
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

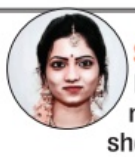
where Bengalureans speak their mind

What steps should the state government take to promote public sanitation and hygiene?

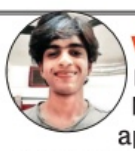


Bhavya CN, Civil Engineer
Food in public places should be kept in closed containers to avoid flies coming in contact with it. Sanitising public places in rural areas is also important. Such steps can be taken to improve hygiene and cleanliness in the city.

Ganesh Goutham J
Engineering Student
Keeping dustbins everywhere with dry and wet waste kept separately, installing more public toilets, and cleaning dumping yards regularly are some of the steps that can be taken.



Sangeetha, Basketball coach
Public places should be sanitised more often, and the illiterate should be educated on the importance of hygiene. Awareness about all of these is key.



V Syed Rasool,
Engineering Student
More employees should be appointed and properly paid. Increase sanitation services, handwash basins, drinking water and other facilities.

Sowmya Sai Ram
Software Engineer
Schemes and programmes should be increased. Proper care of waste management and segregation is very important. People should be responsible enough to not throw garbage on roads and anywhere they want.

SPEAK TO US

What can be done to protect and improve the city's parks?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

A pavement that gives walkers the heeby-jeebies

Footpath linking Wilson Garden Sreet & Siddaiah Road is broken and encroached by food stalls

Shreya BN
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In Bengaluru, it is common to see footpaths, be a source of inconvenience and anxiety for pedestrians. While they are created for the safety and ease of citizens, often, they turn out to be doing just the opposite. A broken footpath connecting Wilson Garden street and Siddaiah Road is one example of pedestrians getting the jitters. The footpath hasn't been fixed in the last 4.5 years, and pedestrians risk facing accidents daily.

The footpath is a busy one as that is the only road leading to the main road where there are bus stops and other facilities. It is also the only path which connects Siddaiah Road.

There are thousands of people walking by every day and it is intolerable for those who have to use it. Elderly people, children, women have to risk injuries many of the times.

The pavement has gaping holes, debris and concrete fill the remaining bits

This footpath is bang opposite the Karnataka bank where the elderly visit often for their pension work.

Another problem is that of the ubiquitous food stall, encroaching upon what is left of the pavement. People visit the stalls to have breakfast in the morning and snacks in the evening as there are several food stalls on the same main road.

While the government had promised to do the white-topping work years ago, they never completed it.

"We have been complaining to BBMP regarding the same issue for several times. They have been blaming the other departments and are careless about it," complains Srinivas, a newspaper distributor.

Recently, in the same place, the milk distributor had fallen down at midnight due to inadequate streetlights.

There have already been a lot of people who have fallen and suffered injuries. However, despite complaints, the authorities have turned apathetic to the plight of the people.

Advanced and agile: K'taka's EV journey

Bescom makes headway, prepares roadmap for installing 1,190 charging stations

| Melvin Mathew
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With over 45,000 electric vehicle users in the city, it is evident that there is a surmounting demand for EVs. The rising operational costs of ICE vehicles is also bound to be a pivotal factor in altering consumer behaviour.

Karnataka was the first State in the country to take the lead on electric vehicles.

Let's look at the journey of Karnataka to build an EV ecosystem that began five years ago.

A few years ago when other states were only thinking about EV, the revolution in Karnataka was brought about with the Karnataka Electric Vehicle and Energy Policy in 2017.

The policy brought the much-needed clarifications about the EV space and established a firm base for the industry to flourish. As a distribution licensee, Bescom was given the responsibility to build the charging infrastructure in the State, specifically in Bengaluru.

In December 2017, the electricity board started the Electric Vehicle Cell at its corporate office near KR Circle. The cell developed the first EV charging station on the office premises. This was the first public DC- fast charging station and first in Karnataka, consisting of two fast chargers and one slow charger.

Five electric vehicles were hired and three of them are in use in the corporate office, one in Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission and one in the Energy Department. A dedicated tariff was issued by KERC and the present rate is Rs 5 per unit. The same year, Bescom also established one AC charging station at KERC and two DC stations with three charging points each at Vikasa Soudha and Vidhana Soudha.

They also sent a proposal to the Urban Development Department to make amendments in the building by-laws and mandate EV charging points in multi-storey buildings and city master plans. Bescom also proposed to the Karnataka government for mandating at least 50 per cent of the government fleet to make the transition to EV vehicles and the government is working on it.

In 2018, Bescom was notified as the state nodal agency to set up charging infrastructure in the state and fix the ceiling limit of service charges demanded by charge point operators.

A charging infrastructure workgroup was created involving various government agencies to make coordinated efforts towards solving the EV charging infrastructure problem. The group has members from BBMP, BDA and Commerce and Industry, with Bescom representative as the chairman. The workgroup submitted a plan before the government of Karnataka in April 2019.

In 2019, BESCOM began to create the skeletal infrastructure for Bengaluru city. The charging infrastructure workgroup supported in identifying 35 on Bescom premises and 35 non-BESCOM premises. The BBMP provided 23 locations. Further locations were identified in BMTC, RTO, BDA complexes and one location in KIADBL. These 126 charges were funded by the transport department.

By the end of 2019, all the points were established and commissioned 26 fast chargers and have been operational since January 2020.

DC EV charging stations are setup at the following Bescom office locations – Corporate Office, KR Circle, Byatarayanapura W6 Sub-Division (Mysore Road), Kathriguppe O&M Office (Near Indira Canteen), BTM Layout O&M Office, HSR Layout Division Office (2nd Sector), Indiranagar E6 Sub-Division, HAL 2nd Stage, Mahadevapura E12 Sub-Division, Near Phoenix Market City, Banaswadi E8 sub-division, Yelahanka C7 Sub-Division among other places.

Under the FAME India Phase II, Rs 1,000 crore was allocated for EV charging stations. For Karnataka, 172 charging stations were sanctioned; 152 for Bengaluru, 10 Mangaluru and 10 for Kalaburagi were allotted

AC Charging Points are set up at Bengaluru City at parking lots of BESCOM Offices, TTMC buildings, BDA Complexes, KSRTC Mysore Road Peenya terminals, BBMP Ward Offices, KIADB Jigani and RTO Offices.

Under the FAME India Phase II, Rs 1,000 crore was allocated for EV charging stations. For Karnataka, 172 charging stations were sanctioned; 152 for Bengaluru, 10 Mangaluru and 10 for Kalaburagi were allotted. Bescom executed an MOU with Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments limited and NTPC limited for installing the charging stations.

Innovations galore

In collaboration with The Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy and Shakthi Sustainable Energy Foundation, Bescom conducted a pilot project to integrate solar roof-top panels with battery energy storage systems with EV charging stations.

The uniqueness about this model was that the raw power being generated from the solar panels is connected to battery storage without any conversion and it is being used in EV charging systems. The solar energy generated was utilised locally.

In a techno-economic feasibility study conducted by Bescom, it was found that this model would be beneficial in areas where the grid cost is high, especially in commercial establishments. This setup can effectively bring down the power cost, has the capability to function as a microgrid and function without interruptions and can charge two EVs completely.

In 2021, the Karnataka government had announced in the state budget that 1,000 charging stations will be established in a public-private partnership. Bescom has already made headway by preparing a roadmap for installing 1,190 stations. Already, 750 locations have been identified and each of these stations will have advanced chargers. Per station capacity is going to be 100KW with the capability to charge six vehicles simultaneously. Tenders are expected to start soon and the bidders are expected to complete within 6 months. They will have to run the business for at least 10 years.

The Government of Karnataka has also entered into an MoU with Ather Energy to set up 1,000 charging stations. Out of these, 100 locations have been identified on Bescom premises and will be confirmed in a month's time.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

Charger Type	Installed in 2018	Installed in 2019	Total Chargers
DC Fast Chargers	4	26	30
AC Slow Chargers	6	100	106
Total	10	126	136

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I,DHARMAVARAM Jaffar Valli Basha R/o 5-10-36 Hindupur Anantapur District A.P, have Changed My Name as Dharmavaram Jaffer Vali Basha

I, ABDUL RAHEMAN ABDUL AZIZ, R/o No.58, S.R.Manzil, 4th B Cross, Basavalingappa Nagar, Sampigehalli, Jakkur Post,Bengaluru-560064, Karnataka have changed my name as ABDUL REHMAN ABDUL AZIZ, vide affidavit dated 25.03.2022 sworn before notary O. S. Chengappa, Bengaluru.

I, DOMINIC MARIA DAS MICKY S/o MARI DASS R/at NO.515, 18th cross, I Block, Vishwapriya Layout, Begur, Bangalore 560068. I have changed my Name to DOMINIC MARI DASS vide Affidavit dated 23.03.2022 sworn before Notary V.RANGARAMU Bangalore.

I, Lakshmi Narayana R/o Villa- 32 Peninsula Prakruthi, Ittangur Road, Anekal Taluk Sarjapura, Bengaluru - 562125 have changed my minor son's name from Mivaan Lakshmi Narayana to Maharsh Lakshmi Narayana for all purposes.

I,DHARMAVARAM Mohammad Aqueel S/o Dharmavaram Jaffer Vali Basha R/o 5-10-36 Hindupur Anantapur District A.P and holder of Passport No - K4138705 have Changed my name as Dharmavaram Mohammed Aqueel

I, Rizwana Firdose N R/o No.202, V2win Apartment, 2nd Floor, Hennur Village Road, Hbr Layout 4th Block, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my minor daughter's name from Alaina Aarzu. Y to Alaina Aarzu for all purposes.

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I, Dharmavaram Shajiya W/O Dharmavaram jaffer vali basha R/o 5-10-36 Hindupur Anantapur District A.P, have Changed My Name as Dharmavaram Shazia

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Timing: 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
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The blues in green

A neighbourhood grocery store that sells so-called sustainably sourced green produce recently displayed a packet of exorbitantly priced jackfruit crisps — as expensive as nuts and dried fruits from central Asia that are now a tad costlier thanks to the Russia-Ukraine fiasco.

Jackfruit is quite the common tree in these parts where most of the fruit-producing and farmed geography lies in the shadow of the fertile valleys of Western Ghats. Humans, birds and beasts such as the feral rhesus macaques and their lion-tailed cousins feast on delish jackfruit in season.

This is not a farmed species of tree. It can be found in the jungles as well as human settlements planted by humans or having sprouted from the giant seeds dispersed by animals that feed on it; its trunk providing timber too.

To sell jackfruit produce as an exotic item in upmarket neighbourhood stores in Bengaluru in the name of greening the economy is preposterous if not akin to daylight robbery — making money while the house is set on fire if you like, with reference to the damning IPCC report that said our window to cool the planet down is rapidly closing and chances are we are already beyond salvation.

Anyway, selling overpriced jackfruit here is as though the Spaniards, Italians, Greeks and Turks, selling extra virgin olive oil in their respective countries at unaffordable rates to the commoner at times of plenty.

Perhaps, in an effort to transition into the 'green economy', fledgling businesses are now themselves turning green, unable to crack an appropriate strategy. On the one hand you are sourcing/stealing a seasonal staple of the impoverished settlers and wild animals for a pittance. On the other, you are miserably failing on the climate cause, piggy-backing on sustainability and green living.

What these businesses overlook or perhaps do not even realise rather, is they are setting the wrong precedent in our cities and beyond as more and more entrepreneurs queue up to raise prices of indigenous seasonal produce that have sustained generations of communities and animals dependent on such produce - indeed the jackfruit is one such fruit.

The curious case of unaffordable jackfruit crisps is just the tip of the iceberg. No doubt, if you are to dig deeper, you may stumble upon a long list of commodities such as sugarcane, jaggery, honey and coconut products to name a few, of which, prices are jacked up too. The fallout of the coronavirus and skirmish between Russia and the west are handy excuses you see.

What is essentially needed at the moment is a check on such practices, where businesses loot valued indegenous produce from rightful owners, greenwashing their way in effect, selling products to those in the higher echelons of society, who in turn help sustain such unsustainable models.

The case in point of jackfruit, already kind of expensive for the ordinary consumer, wrapped in all new 'green branding', pleases the 'climate-conscious, 'earth-loving', 'tree-hugging', 'uber elite' in the metropolis who think that by buying a pack of crisps he/she/they help to salvage a dying planet alongside washing their sins off whatever their contribution in depleting natural resources — for instance, the dozen gas-guzzling motor vehicles the family collectively own. Yes, businesses have got one thing right: gaslighting their target consumer segment.

Apart from turning sustainability on its head, in times of irreversible climate chaos unravelling as we speak, such practices are essentially exacerbating the fallout of extreme weather-triggered natural calamities on communities living on the frontlines.

Taking into account the fragile and depleting eco networks in nature on the background of the latest IPCC report, it is time urban businesses and startups that sell indigenous produce in this part of the world took cognisance and realigned their models to benefit all stakeholders, especially communities on the brink.

Policy makers, opinions leaders and entrepreneurs must take note that doing so is ultimately in the collective's interest (and in their interests) rather than the shortsighted squirming-in-the-surface style approach towards an impending catastrophe that is playing out in front of us each monsoon, or each passing season when mitigation becomes more and more challenging as per the IPCC report.

Criticisms apart, there are indeed brands that do understand the real impetus for brand building and sustainability (to some degree IKEA and Apple belong in this group) lies in fine tuning the product with utmost regard to the zeitgeist, which is now in fact the climate emergency, besides throwing a lifeline to the most vulnerable as the firms profiteer. Surely, aspiring entrepreneurs and big sharks alike can follow suit and course-correct to this direction instead of the token greenwashing evident in the case of the jackfruit crisps in the neighbourhood store. Or else, the sword of imminent climate apocalypse that is hanging overhead shall befall upon us sooner than we thought.

When push comes to shove

BBMP opts for quick-fix push box method to build underpass in Marathahalli

The new underpass to come up near the Marathahalli railway overbridge will ease likely traffic bottleneck near Spice Garden

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has a bright idea to create an underpass near the Marathahalli railway overbridge -- the push box method. The underpass which would benefit 25,000-plus commuters by reducing traffic congestion, will be built using this technique that is expected to ensure that the project is completed in three months.

Push boxes are pre cast concrete box frames that are made at a casting yard and later shifted and installed at designated locations. The project is estimated to cost Rs 4.5 crore.

As the Kundalahalli underpass project is close to completion and once that underpass is open to commuters, the movement of vehicles could lead to traffic congestion 200 metres ahead of the Kundalahalli underpass near the Spice Garden U-Turn. This would become a traffic choking point. Here, the new underpass will play a role in easing the traffic.

The two-lane underpass constructed near the Marathahalli ROB will help reduce travel time for commuters coming from the Old Airport Road to Outer Ring Road. On both sides of the underpass, there are residents of Aswath Nagar and Munekola and Marathahalli who are also said to save up over 10-15 minutes every day of their commute, as they could reach to the Ring Road much faster using the underpass.

Usually during construction of underpasses, the site is concretised and there are land aquisition issues, which causes delays. However in the push-box pre-caste model, work is said to be completed in three months.

The normal construction of underpasses also takes up a lot of space and with equipment having to come in, there is pollution and more traffic blocks. For the pre caste method, the push boxes would be made in the casting yard and will just have to be brought in and fit once the site work is completed.

However, some residents of the area were of the view that with the ongoing work at Kundalahalli underpass and now with the underpass work at Marathahalli ROB, they are staring at more traffic bottle necks so they suggested that the Kundalahalli underpass be opened up first before the push box work commences.

'It is already difficult to travel on the Kundalahalli underpass stretch with the ongoing work and now with this not even a kilometre away, it will only lead to more choking," said a commuter.

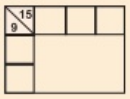
Shivshankar, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer (Road Infrastructure), Mahadevpura zone, said, " It is ideal for both the project work to continue, as we could finish it on time and once it's done, commuters will benefit largely. Currently there is space for one side traffic movement. There is good amount of width space for the vehicles to move. The push box will be completed fast and help in the easy movement of traffic."

Metro services on purple line to be disrupted today

There will be no Metro services between Baiyyappanahalli and MG Road Metro stations on March 26 (Saturday) after 9.30 pm due to civil maintenance works on the purple line between Indiranagar and Swami Vivkenanada stations.
During this period, the purple line metro trains will run only between MG road and Kengeri Metro station. On Sunday, metro train services will resume normally at 7 am. The Metro train will run as usual in the green line on Saturday, according to a press release.

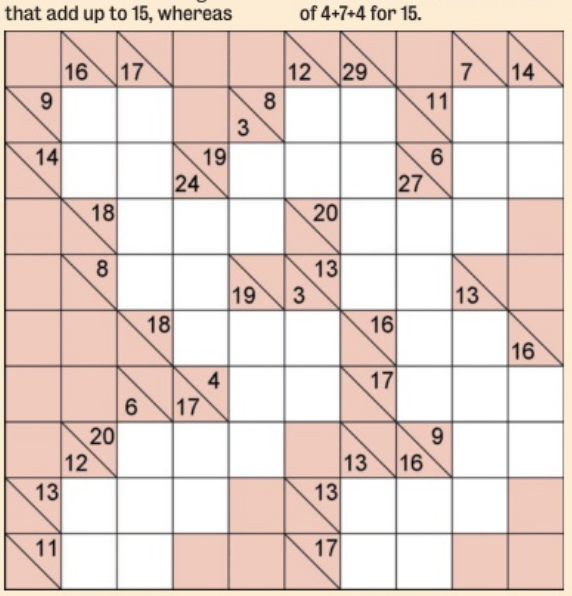
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

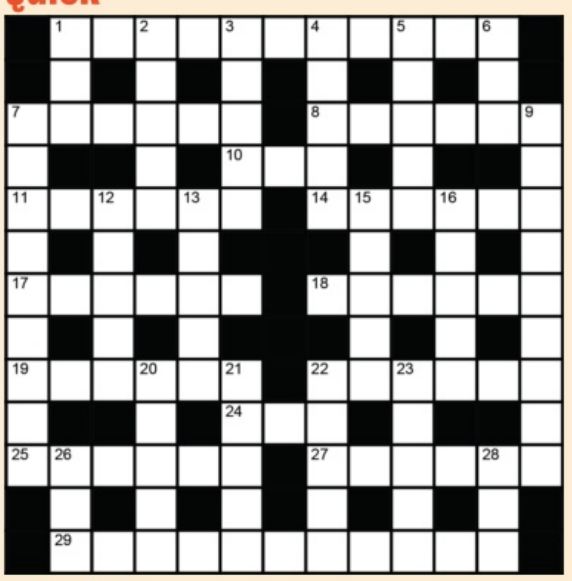


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Ode to a ___ : a poem by Keats? (11)
7 Calm down (6)
8 Try to deal with a problem or a difficulty? (6)
10 Nabokov novel (3)
11 Snoozed (6)
14 Fall asleep (3,3)
17 Suspend or swing again? (6)
18 Lunatic or madman (6)
19 Absolutely latest? (6)
22 The face or countenance (6)
24 One, as a prefix (3)
25 Line on a weather map (6)
27 Concealed (6)
29 Occasionally or frequently? (3,3,5)

DOWN

1 Maiden-name (3)
2 An outfit or costume? (3-2)
3 ____ on air : feel elated? (5)
4 Paying Guest was her first film (5)
5 Bent or twisted, in a way (5)
6 Slender fish (3)
7 Festival celebrated in January (9)
9 Capable and organised (9)
12 Exclamation expressing contempt (5)
13 Sea-eagles (5)
15 Muscat native (5)
16 Bhubaneshwar lingo (5)
20 Arm joint (5)
21 Italian city (5)
22 Type of residence (5)
23 A precept summarising Vedic teaching (5)
26 Our star (3)
28 Convent dweller (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS G

SCO UXOPDC HPR SCO JXVS-VFC HXO FMDC ZTTR OPOAVOF SCHS SCOE DHP'S XOFVFS JOVPZ UXVOPRF.

Linemaro

This time next year, you and I will be laughing together

Mindchow

The best advice is this: Don't take advice and don't give advice

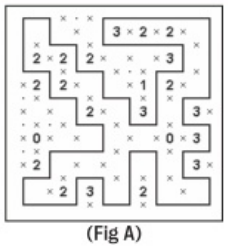
Joke of the day

I assume full responsibility for my actions, except the ones that are someone else's fault

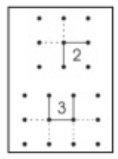
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



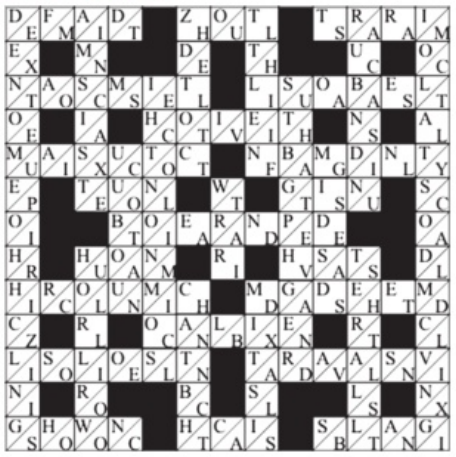
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

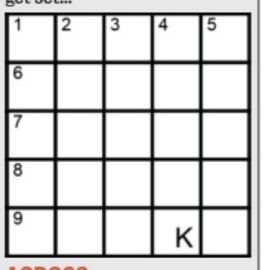
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

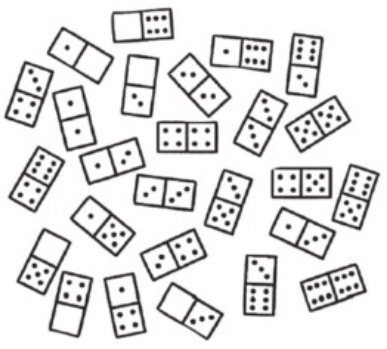
1 Sum my; 6 A tale;
7 Egads; 8 Came I;
9 Smack

DOWN

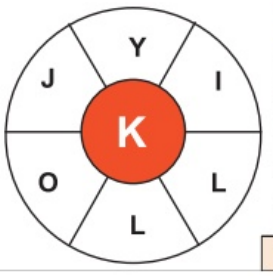
1 Dam am; 2 A mule;
3 Gamic; 4 Tacks;
5 Essey

Mensapuzzle

Which two dominoes are missing from the set?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; **02** Good; **03** Outstanding

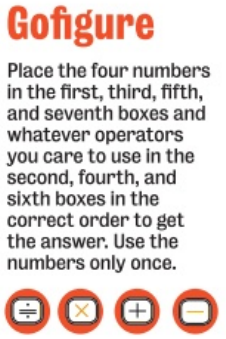
SudokuChallenge

9		1	8		7	3		2
4								9
		8	6		3	7		
		7		5		6		
	3						9	
		2		3		1		
		5	1		4	9		
2								6
7		6	5		9	4		8

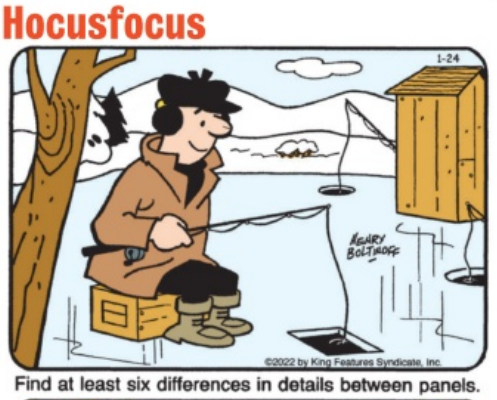
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

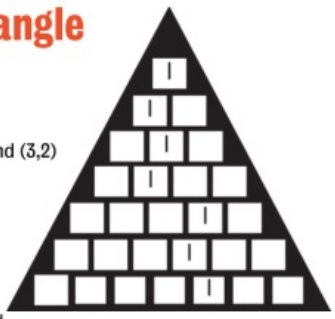
Differences: 1. Hut is taller. 2. Laces are missing. 3. Crate is different. 4. Cloud is lower. 5. Reel is moved. 6. Fishing line is different.

Riddler

Lines will fly across it, yet none will tie or bind. Painted people lying, but none who watch will mind. With curtain but no window, where action is confined. Of all the walls around it, there's one you'll never find. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Third vowel
2 Not out
3 Whitney creation
4 Fender flaw
5 Prepared to defend (3,2)
6 Swindling
7 Dessert



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel nervous; you may lack patience; for seeking peace, you may be attracted towards the occult. It is advised to follow your intuition before going ahead. You may also get in-depth knowledge on a subject or you may focus well on your research.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your moon is placed in a good position; you may expect some positive momentum in professional and domestic life. You are likely to expect gains in terms of investments. You may get reciprocation for your help from friends and relatives. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may do better; kids; health may be better now. You can plan to make some investments for kids' future. You are likely to be more loyal towards your job. Job-seekers may find a good job with the help of a reference. You may be able to find your hidden enemies and with the help of blessings, you may counter them.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may hear good news in terms of a job. Job-seekers may be focused to crack the entrance exams with the help of hard work. Singles may get engaged to their soulmate. You may also hear some good news in terms of childbirth.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may plan for a change in place; it is advised to postpone a decision related to migration. It is also advised to avoid investment in business. By late evening, situation may be under control. With the help of good advice from one of the elders, you may control the messy situation.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may expect some short business trip. You may also expect to get some rewards for your success in your domain. Your respect around you may be increased. You may hear some good news from siblings. Job seekers who are seeking a management-related job may achieve success. Singles are likely to get engaged.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you will be blessed by your elders. New sources of income are likely to be opened which will boost your bank balance; you may plan to renovate your house. You may get a big order which can grow your family business multiple times. You need to be patient while signing any contract. There may be some movement in your business; delayed projects will start again.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today will be a good day for you. You may have good vitality and health. You may enjoy your work. It is advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics, otherwise there may be some disputes in the family. If you are able to control your tongue, then you may expect healthy partnerships in the business and harmony in the family. Jo- seekers may find suitable job. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussing worthless topics.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your energy may slow down; an old disease may resurface which may make you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. You are advised to avoid any type of ligations; you may settle it out of court. You may also plan for overseas tours.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may get profits for your past investments. Your losses may convert into profits. Implementation of new ideas may help in progression in the business. Today, you may get success easily. You are likely to meet an influential person who may show you the right path to get success. Lovebirds may take some decisions in terms of marriage. Couples will hear good news in terms of kids. Job-seekers will get suitable job.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, your family and spouse will support you; it will increase domestic harmony. Due to overworking; you may not give proper time to your family. You are expected to see a strong position on the professional front. Projects related to government agencies are likely to be initiated now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your spiritual power may make you happy. Your way of thinking may be positive. You are inclined towards spiritualism today. You may plan to visit some religious place. You may also take an interest in occult science. You are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature. It is advised to keep your views with you only; try to discuss with those who may understand your frequency.

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SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER Stage

BULL'S EYE kill, KILLJOY, yolk

QUOTE UNCODE
The French and the British are such good enemies that they can't resist being friends.

FAST FIVE

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STRIKE OUT

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RRR, an action extravaganza

Rajamouli manages to present an intense story with superb grandeur

RRR
4.5 RATING ★★★★½
- **DIRECTOR** SS Rajamouli
- **ACTORS** NTR, Ram Charan, Alia Bhat, Ajay Devgn, Olivia Morris, and Samuthirakhani

Rajamouli, who gave sensational hits like Baahubali, had created quite the buzz with RRR. Will RRR break the previous records? The answer is a resounding yes. The multi starrer with Young Tiger NTR and Mega Power Star Ram Charan, Bollywood stars Alia Bhatt, Ajay Devgn for powerful roles with Irish stars Olivia Morris, Alison Doody, and Ray Stevenson, and versatile Kollywood star Samuthirakhani and Shriya Sharan complete the RRR cast. This film proves that Indian filmmakers can create extavaganza on par with Hollywood standards.

Akthar (NTR) goes in search of a tribal girl in Adilabad taken by the Britishers. He lands in Delhi but is unable to find safe passage into the palace. He comes in touch with Ramraj (Ram Charan), a cop who is out to capture a rebel, Bheem. To find out whether Akthar and Ramraj are successful and what their connection with Jennifer (Olivia Morris), Seetha (Alia Bhatt), Vijay Ramraju (Ajay Devgn), Sarojini (Shriya Sharan) is, watch RRR. NTR has thrilled all with his intense action sequences. He connects with the audience with powerful emotions, and his fiery screen presence elevates the scenes. Ram Charan looks royal and fit. He has performed his role with much commitment. NTR and Ramcharan's characters are well crafted. Their entry scenes are stunning and turn out to be the highlights of the film. The way Rajamouli built their friendship and misunderstanding is thrilling.

Alia Bhatt makes her presence felt in a graceful manner. Ajay Devgn performs well in an action-packed role. Rahul Ramakrishna plays an important role.

Rajamouli and his father Vijayendra Prasad come up with a story loaded with emotions and high on action. Both worked relentlessly to do full justice to the stardom of Ram Charan and NTR. The story begins in a simple manner with the scene related to the tribal girl and sets the tone for the power-packed introduction of Ram Charan and NTR. Rajamouli chose a show the heroics of Ram Charan and a few to elevate the heroism of NTR. A few twists and turns lead to the intense interval bang ending the high octane rather fast-paced first half. Keeravani's music is good. The song Naatu Naatu is choreographed in a sensational manner and well shot. Cinematography by Senthil Kumar is top class, especially the pre-Independence era. Dialogues are powerful, emotional, and heart-touching. RRR is made with grandeur and is a must-watch.

-Mahesha H

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What Shilpa learned from the field

A few days ago, Shilpa Shetty Kundra spent some time in the fields in Punjab while shooting for Sukhee. On Friday, Shilpa took to Insta to share her feelings.

"Spending some time in the fields a few days ago made me realise some things... The soil of our country is one of the biggest blessings we have in our lives. It's the source of the food we eat; and that we can grow our own grains, spices, vegetables, & fruits is a beautiful reminder of the prosperity we enjoy..." **-ANI**

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